OPEN LINES

Volume 46 Issue 3

Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

Quick Links for Ontario South

Group Records Change Form

Donation Form or E-transfers can be sent to osatreasurer3@gmail.com. There is no need for a security question and answer. Please note your district #, group # and group name in the memo section of the transfer.

Form C for SAMS (AMIAS)

Literature Order Forms (Printable and Fillable)

Area Policy Manual

Upcoming Events

Option: copy and paste the following to your browser:

https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/ontario-south-forms/

Al-Anon Declaration

Let it begin with me

When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there and let it begin with me.

Statement of Purpose

Open Lines is published three times a year by Ontario South Assembly. This newsletter presents service-related news and information to Al-Anon groups in Ontario South to help keep them informed. Personal sharings of recovery should be sent to the Forum.

Subscription: Rates:

Free for personal email subscription.

If you wish to receive a paper copy in the mail, subscription rates for copies mailed in Canada are \$15.00 for 1 year.

Please send a request for NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS / RENEWALS to: openlinesosa@gmail.com

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Ontario South Website (Al-anon.alateen.on.ca)

Districts in Ontario South

District 1 - Muskoka (Angus, Barrie, Bracebridge, Huntsville, Innisfil, Midland, Orillia, Parry Sound, Sprucedale, Wasaga Beach)

District 2 - Georgian Bay (Collingwood, Dundalk, Owen Sound, Lion's Head, Thornbury)

District 3 - Bruce County (Hanover, Kincardine, Port Elgin, Southampton)

District 4 – Waterloo Region (Cambridge, Elmira, Fergus, Guelph, Kitchener, New Hamburg, Rockwood, Waterloo, Kitchener/Waterloo)

District 5 - Huron Perth (Clinton, Exeter, Goderich, Listowel, St. Marys, Stratford)

District 6 – London Region (London, Strathroy)

District 7 – Sarnia region (Bright's Grove, Forest, Petrolia,

District 8 – Windsor, Essex (Amherstburg, Essex, Harrow, Kingsville, LaSalle, Leamington, Windsor)

District 9 - Chatham region (Chatham, Ridgetown, Wallaceburg, Tilbury)

District 10 - Elgin region (Ingersoll, Port Stanley, Port

Rowan, St. Thomas, Tillsonburg, Woodstock) **District 11** – Brantford (Brantford, Simcoe)

District 12 - Niagara region (Dunnville, Niagara Falls, Port

Colborne, Ridgeway, Welland) District 13 – St. Catherines (Grimsby, St. Catharines)

District 14 – Hamilton West (Amalgamated with District 15)

(Hamilton, Burlington, Stoney Creek, Waterdown)

District 16 - Mississauga (Mississauga, Oakville, Port Credit)

District 17 - Peel, Halton (Acton, Bolton, Bramalea, Brampton, Erin, Georgetown, Milton, Woodbridge)

District 18 - GTA North (Aurora, Beaverton, Bradford, Keswick, King City, Newmarket, Orangeville, Stouffville,

Sutton West, Tottenham)

District 19 - Toronto North (Don Mills, Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Toronto, Willowdale)

District 20 - Toronto West (Etobicoke, Toronto, Weston)

District 21 - Toronto Central (Toronto)

District 22 - Scarborough (Agincourt, Markham,

Scarborough, Toronto, Unionville)

District 23 - Lakeshore (Ajax, Bowmanville, Orono, Oshawa, Pickering, Port Perry, Whitby)

District 24 - Kawartha (Bancroft, Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Haliburton, Lindsay, Maynooth, Minden, Oakwood, Omemee)

District 25 – Quinte (Belleville, Campbellford, Cobourg, Foxboro, Picton, Port Hope, Stirling, Trenton, Gananoque)

District 26 - St. Lawrence (Brockville, Carleton Place,

Kemptville, Perth, Smiths Falls)

District 27 - Seaway Valley

Cornwall, Lancaster, Morrisburg, Winchester

District 28/29 – Ottawa (Ottawa, Amprior)

District 30 - Ottawa Valley

Barry's Bay, Cobden, Pembroke, Renfrew, St. Joseph, Quebec

District 31 – Kingston region

Enterprise, Kingston, Napanee

District 32 – Kawartha South

Ennismore, Norwood, Peterborough

From the Ontario South Delegate

My Name is Gwen D, I am privileged serve as the Ontario South Delegate to World Service

I have to tell all of you that I was beyond excited at Assembly. What a gift it was for me to see all of these beautiful Al-Anon Members meeting and greeting each. Many of these folks were meeting each other for the first time. There were even a few GR's who have never even attended an inperson-meeting. That really blows my mind. Thank you for coming to Assembly. Thank you for representing your groups and your districts. I know that we asked a lot of you by creating an agenda for so many items for discussion. But you were dedicated to the challenge and we got through it. Hooray for us!

Thank you to the host committee that worked on getting us to assembly, not 1 year but 2 years in a row. I am so grateful in all the big and little ways you made Assembly happen. You folks did a fabulous job. WELL DONE!!

World Service Convention

The 2023 Al-Anon International Convention will be held on June 29 – July 2, 2023 At the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM

Dear Members,

We are excited to announce that registration for the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention opens Tuesday, November 8, 2022! While it is possible to register safely and securely using a smart device (smartphone or tablet), the user experience is not optimal. So, for best results, we recommend using a laptop/desktop computer. We ask that you share this with other members.

Below are some long-awaited details, which also may be shared.

The registration fees are as follows: Prior to Jan. 11, 2023 -- \$175

Prior to May 10, 2023 -- \$200

After May 10, 2023 -- \$225

This registration includes access to the following events:

The Party in the Plaza (Thursday night 06/29)

International Big Meeting, including the Language of Love Parade (Friday morning 06/30)

Family Big Meeting (Saturday night 07/01)

Spiritual Big Meeting (Sunday morning 07/02)

Your choice of many sessions throughout the event

- ❖ I have been in contact with both my Sponsor and Service Sponsor. I keep up with my Panel News. Read and respond to questions and emails, Attend the Canadian Delegate Meetings and all the emails that are generated between meetings.
- ❖ I feel it necessary to confess that I missed the most recent meetings of both the COB & the Canadian Delegates meeting because I was travelling from a conference.
- November 18 your Ontario South Executive was sequestered in a room to focus on the business of Al-Anon OSA members. We appreciate your encouragement and your prayers as we work through the agenda. Please know with confidence that you, our Member's, are always first in our thoughts as we work through the agenda.

Gwen D. OSA Delegate Area 86, Panel 61, ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com

Enhancing Our Recovery through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding Enriquecer nuestra recuperación a través de la abundancia, unidad y comprensión Enrichir notre rétablissement par l'abondance, l'unité et la comprehension

From the Ontario South Alternate Delegate/Forum Coordinator

Dear Members,

Suggested Topics for The Forum!

- ★ How Al-Anon helped you gain new insight?
- ★ How do you apply a slogan or recovery principle to help solve a problem?
- ★ How has your recovery grown because of service?
- ★ If you'd share about it at a meeting, you can write about it for The Forum, and The Forum needs your sharings!

Please consider serving the fellowship by submitting your writing. All AlAnon-focused topics and perspectives are welcome. Submissions should range from 150 to 800 words.

Send your articles to The Forum, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617; to wso@alanon.org; or submit online at al-anon.org/forumshare

A Personal Experience

I was recently reminded of how The Forum contributes to the unity of our fellowship when I attended a small meeting in a small town where I did not know anyone. Like the others in attendance, I was there as an anonymous member. It happened to be a Step-study meeting. Just imagine how thrilled I was to see the meeting leader pull out copies of the October issue of The Forum from the past several years! She handed out a different one to each person there (including a couple of newcomers) and invited everyone to read the sharing on Step Ten and then comment on it if they wish. It really was a spiritual moment for me, realizing that members and newcomers from all over the country-and the world-are reading the same words and seeking to apply the same principles to their unique circumstances in their unique settings, as we all seek recovery from our common illness: the family disease of alcoholism.

Published from your Area...

The October issue featured sharings from more than 18 locations, including Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California (2!), Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Ontario (4!!!), South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and several anonymous locations. Photos came from Texas and an unnamed location.

The November issue features sharings from British Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Manitoba, Minnesota, New York, Ontario, South Carolina (2!), Texas (3!), Virginia, and several unnamed locations. Photos are from members in Minnesota and an anonymous location.

Sneak Peek for November

As is often the case in November, the upcoming issue features a number of sharings on gratitude, including one that grapples with the question of how one can be grateful in the midst of painful losses. Other gratitude-focused sharings describe the benefits of keeping a gratitude list, a "God box" and a gratitude journal; one member expresses the gratitude many feel for the program in general and the gradual dawning of peace and serenity. Two sharings address the question of belonging-one from a member who no longer lives with active alcoholism and one from someone who struggled to identify any alcoholics in her life until, 15 years in, her son asked for help with his alcoholism. Sharings from men address dealing with fears through prayer and service. A mother who grew up feeling unlovable shares how she learned to recognize the need for love underlying the behaviour and words of her son. The Instant Meeting explores some ways members pray for and identify their Higher Power's will, while the Step Eleven sharing focuses on using prayer and meditation to find relief and serenity. A CAL Corner on The Al-Anon Focus (P-45) dovetails beautifully with an Inside Al-Anon article on honouring policy in service positions. And so much more!

Love in service

Kristine B. Alternate Delegate & Forum Coordinator, ontariosouthdelegatealt@hotmail.com

From the Ontario South Area Chairperson

Hello Ontario South members. Here is a list of what your chairperson has been busy with.

ASSEMBLY 2022 October 14 - 16, Ottawa. We worked hard at organizing this event right through the summer. The Information Package went out early this year to accommodate an earlier registration deadline. I chaired the Assembly meeting. Doing this in person was a first for me. It was an awesome experience, so much work got done. The Group Reps came prepared, shared at the microphone quite a lot and presented well thought-out motions. I love to watch how Al-Anon business gets done. The voice of our Higher Power is heard through our group conscience (page 6, Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions Illustrated, P-60). This was very evident to me at this Assembly meeting.

<u>ASSEMBLY 2023</u> October 20 - 22, Mississauga. Districts 17 and 16 have stepped up to form a host committee. If you would like to help, please contact myself or the district representatives. I serve as the executive liaison for the Assembly host committee.

ASSSEMBLY 2024 October. A host committee from the west side of our area (districts 3 through 11) is needed. District reps please discuss this with your Group reps. We are waiting to receive a bid for this valuable and necessary service. The Chair of the 2024 Host Committee may wish to shadow the Chair of the 2023 Host Committee.

EMAILS I respond to member and executive emails as quickly as I can.

EXECUTIVE MEETING November. I set the agenda for approval of the executive and chaired this meeting.

<u>ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION</u> I receive and track these items and send responses from the executive to members. If the member agrees, the question and response are published in this newsletter.

<u>LITERATURE OPERATING COMMITTEE October</u> I am a member of this committee and attended the October meeting. The committee members discuss and make decisions on how our Literature Distribution Centre is run following our guidelines.

AMIAS LETTERS If a member requires a letter to reduce the cost of their criminal record check, I issue the letter.

<u>VOICE OF THE AREA</u> That is the Chairperson. I communicate with other parties that we deal with. For example, we are looking for a new lawyer to perform legal work for our AMIAS (Al-Anon Member In Alateen Service) certification.

ZOOM The area zoom account is available to districts and committees who wish to use it for a meeting. Just send me the day and time and I will confirm availability, set up the meeting, and let you know how to open zoom.

DID YOU KNOW?

- > Our area executive meets in February, July and November this year.
- Any member can send an item for consideration to any member of the executive at any time. The form for this is on our area website at https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/ontario-south-forms. You will receive a response to your item following the executive meeting that it was discussed at. These items and the executive response appear in our Open Lines newsletter, subject to permission by the member submitting the item.
- All members have access to our area policy and guidelines manual on our area website http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/area-policy-manual

It's not too early to consider service as a coordinator or executive member in 2024. Full information can be found in our area policy manual mentioned above.

Gratefully Yours,

Sandy O. Chairperson, Ontario South Assembly chairons86@gmail.com

From the Ontario South Treasurer

Donations to the area can be made either by e-transfer or by cheque.

E-transfers can be sent to <u>osatreasurer3@gmail.com</u>. There is no need for a security question and answer.

IMPORTANT Please note your district #, group # and group name in the memo section of the transfer. I need more than just the name of your group. The name of your group could be the same as another group in a different district.

Or, if you prefer, make your cheque payable to "Ontario South Assembly" and mail to P.O. Box 1151, Station Main, Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3. For proper accounting please use the donation form found in the area manual. Go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca, member section, area policy manual, Section 10, Form D – donation form.

The budgeted amount required from each group for 2022 is \$110.62; for 2023 is 150.62

Thanks again for putting your trust in me.

Janet B Treasurer osatreasurer3@gmail.com

From the Area Advisor, Literature Office Committee Chairperson

Greetings,

- ➤ How wonderful to see all the faces in person and to get all the hugs at Assembly this year.
- > I was truly impressed with the number of members who were involved in the discussions and who asked the hard questions.
- > Your Executive will have met by the time you receive this email and will have discussed the Items for Consideration which you will find recorded in this Open Lines issue. Remember you can submit an Item of Consideration at any time and to any member of the Executive.
- ➤ Hopefully I will see many of you at the Al-Anon International Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. If you are going, please let me know. I would love to meet up with you there.

Sue Gaskell, Area Advisor, Literature Office Committee Chairperson

From the Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP)

It sure was great to see some of you at Assembly in October. There was some discussion around finding a lawyer (our lawyer had closed her practice) to review Police Record Checks. As of early November, when I'm preparing this report, the Area Executive has met to discuss this issue and are working on finding someone. While a new lawyer hasn't been hired yet, please don't let that stop you from getting a Police Record Check (including vulnerable sector screening).

Should you wish to become an AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service) please refer to the applicable section of the Al-Anon Ontario South, Area 86 website. www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca

Briefly, you will obtain a police record check including vulnerable sector screening from your local police station, in person or on-line. You will seal this in an envelope and give it to your District Representative (DR) along with the completed Area Form C (also found on the Area website). Your DR will complete the form and send it to me for processing.

Some cities, towns etc may reduce or eliminate the processing fee. If this applies to you, you may request a letter from the Area Chair, Sandy O at chairons86gmail.com. You will need to provide Sandy with your full legal name for the letter.

Your District may reimburse you for any expenses, if not, the Area will. The Area expense form is also found on the Area website.

Feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions about becoming an AMIAS.

Sending blessings for the upcoming holiday season

Jean McS, <u>aapp.ontariosouth@gmail.com</u>

From the Group Records Coordinator

Hi everyone. I would like to commend all those who took the time after assembly to review the packages I sent out and make all the corrections needed.

I have registered 3 new groups since assembly and sadly closed a couple as well. I encourage you all to continue using the group records form for all your changes. Happy Holidays to all.

Hugs in service

Sharon R, Group Records Coordinator grprec@hotmail.com

From the Open Lines Coordinator

Thank you for placing your trust in me and giving me this opportunity to serve.

Open Lines is published three times a year by Ontario South Assembly. This newsletter presents service-related news and information to Al-Anon groups in Ontario South to help keep them informed. Thank you to all of the Executive, Coordinators and DR's who submit to each issue of Open Lines.

The deadlines (mark your calendars) for submissions to Open Lines each year are: March 11 (April 1 issue); July 11 (August 1 issue); November 11 (December 1 issue)

At Assembly I introduced a feedback form for members to share with me how we can make this newsletter more accessible to you. The feedback form is called "Stop, Start, Continue". As the name suggests, it will give me some ideas for things that are not working for you, things I might not be currently doing that would help you, things that are currently done that work for you. I will try to incorporate your suggestions as much as is practical to do so and to share the suggestions with you. The following are some of the suggestions I received:

- ★ That GRs print the report for your group. Perhaps it can then become part of your group's lending library.
- ★ That the GRs highlight items in the Newsletter.
- ★ That the GR email copies of the Newsletter to group members when they receive them.

I invite all members to submit to me your feedback throughout the year. You might find that thinking of your feedback in the form of stop/start/continue might help to provide respectful, honest and meaningful communication that will enhance the value of the Newsletter to benefit our Area.

If you do not currently receive your own email copy, please email me at <u>openlinesosa@gmail.com</u> to receive your very own free email subscription. The next issue is April 1.

Yours in Joyful service,

Loretta V, Open Lines Coordinator openlinesosa@gmail.com

From the Public Outreach Coordinator

Hello my friends,

GTAIS is planning on attending the Pri-Med Exhibit at The International Centre in Mississauga, Ontario, May 10-12, 2023. The cost for the display table is \$1,500.00 which is less expensive than what was quoted at Assembly, as this new rate is for Non-profit organizations. Due to the high price of securing a table and purchasing pamphlets, materials etc., we will need to do some fundraising. The goal is to raise \$4,000 by February 2023.

Please speak to your groups for nominal donations or literature donations such as Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism booklets, the Professional packet (K-30) or old Forums. Approximately 10,000 medical professionals such as Family Physicians, Social Workers and Nurse Practitioners attend this type of conference. We will need numerous pieces of literature to give away to the primary care people who will be seeking information. The Pri-Med committee will be meeting shortly and a chair and secretary will be voted in. If you live close to Mississauga or are visiting the Toronto area in May 2023 and would like to volunteer to distribute literature at the Pri-Med conference please email Diana (Di) B. at dbell22@cogeco.ca. We did a little bit of fundraising at Assembly in October and made \$271.00 selling little slogan cards and literature covers.

Two years ago the Al-Anon/Alateen Public Outreach (APO) disbanded. They worked with 8 districts (D16-23). They transferred the remaining funds to Ontario South Assembly Public Outreach for public outreach projects. Two districts have been forwarded money for their projects plus \$30.00 was used for the rental of the Lois video shown at the November 2020 workshop. The remaining \$500.00 funds has been donated for the Pri-Med project.

I had the pleasure to be invited to a workshop in Chatham with Kristine B. (Alternate Delegate) and Colleen W. (literature coordinator). I spoke about Public Outreach and a little about my journey into Al-Anon. Lucky for me there was a beautiful Al-Anon lady doing Public Outreach work at the treatment centre that my friend went through. Or I would still be an untreated Al-Anonic.

I want to thank all the enthusiastic Public Outreach committee members who work so hard and are always ready to carry the Al-Anon/Alateen's message and reach out to the public. Participation is the key to Continued Recovery. By participating in service work at any level we ensure our recovery continues to move forward and that Al-Anon remains available to all who are affected by someone else's drinking.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Geraldine R., Public Outreach Coordinator, ontariosouthpo@gmail.com

From the Website Coordinator



At Assembly 2022, our Alternate Delegate did the honours of commenting about my report in my absence. At my request, she talked about a page in the 'About Meetings' section of the website, that shows our meetings per Districts. It is a page that some members had not really noticed and I can tell that there is more attention for it now. Thank you, Kristine, for helping get the word out!

These District Meeting lists are based on the latest information about meetings in our Area and can be helpful to existing members and newcomers alike, to find a meeting with further details about the location and the meeting status. Even public outreach telephone lines might find them useful. The lists can be viewed online, but they can also be downloaded. A word of caution: downloading a list and using it for a longer time is practically a guarantee that the information will no longer be up to date. That is why they are always date stamped so that you can double check when it was last printed. I invite you to visit this page and please, feel free to refer others to the link rather than a printed example. Here is the direct link:

https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/meeting-frontpage/meeting-prints/
(Go there manually via the section 'About Meetings' > PDF Meeting Lists per District)

In other news...

• The Ontario South Area Policy (APM) has been completely updated and can now be downloaded (and printed) as a single file PDF (192 pages). It is also still available per section, so depending on your interest and need, you can choose to print it in part, or in its entirety. Here is a direct link to the APM page:

https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/area-policy-manual/
(Go there manually via the section 'For Members' > Area Policy Manual)

- Our World Service Office has released a lot of materials that can now be published on area websites. This means that there will be new monthly member shares in the 'Our Programs' section of our website, in the chapter 'Members Share'. In the 'For Members' section on the WSO page I also included a direct link to the blog on the WSO website in that article. Every month, there is a new topic that you can share about.
- On the literature page dedicated to service literature, you will now find links to download the electronic versions of the new Service Manuals 2022-2025. This will help you do a quick search for a particular topic in a PDF file, that you can then later more easily locate in the printed version (that may be a bit delayed due to supply chain issues at WSO level). Here is a direct link to this service literature page:

https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/literature/service-in-al-anon-and-alateen/
(Go there directly via the section 'Literature' > Service in Alanon and Alateen or 'Literature' > Service in the program)

That's all for now, folks! A heartfelt 'thank-you' for your ongoing appreciation and support.

Wishing you the merriest of holidays and the very best for the coming new year!

Yours in service,

Nicky D., Website Coordinator Ontario South os.website.a86@gmail.com

From the Trillium Chair

Greetings Friends:

My name is Jo-Anne G. (District 28) and I am currently in service as the Trillium Chairperson for Ontario South. Trillium is our Area's very own convention – a gathering to celebrate our recovery in Al-Anon/Alateen. This is a convention FOR us, BY us, CENTRED ON us. We are not invited as "guests" to this party; this one IS our party!

Following the successful re-launch of Trillium at a virtual gathering on September 10, the planning committee has now turned its attention to next year's IN-PERSON gathering. Here is what we know:

Date: **June 9 – 11, 2023**

Location: Durham College/UOIT Campus (2000, Simcoe St. N., Oshawa)

Program: Al-Anon, Alateen, A.A. Speakers and Panels

Theme: WE ARE NO LONGER ALONE

Registration is NOT yet open; details will be communicated once we have a better idea of the program. As is the custom in Al-Anon, the registration fee will be set in accordance with the overall expenses for the convention. We are also considering a fundraiser initiative to help keep the registration fees affordable. Your best way to stay up to date is to check the Trillium page on the Ontario South web site: https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/trillium/

We are continuing to grow the planning committee! There will be many service opportunities as we get closer to the event. If you are interested in getting involved, please send me an email at osatrillium@gmail.com. If you have a specific area (ie. greeter, registration, Alateen, bookstore...), let me know and I will direct your expression of interest to the appropriate coordinator. We are especially looking for an Alateen member to serve on the committee. Do you know of anyone who is ready to grow through service?? Send me their name or have them contact me.

Finally, THANK YOU to Ontario South for your commitment to and support of Trillium!! This was evident at Assembly held in Ottawa in October. Although I was not able to be there, the Trillium committee members in attendance shared the extent of the excitement and buzz surrounding YOUR convention. So, thank you...and SAVE THE DATE!

Jo-Anne G.

In service as Trillium Chairperson, osatrillium@gmail.com



District Representative Updates

District 23 (Lakeshore) Update

Hello from District 23! There have been a few changes since our last update. Lakeshore District 23 now has 10 active groups. Brooklin New Beginnings has been removed from our meeting lists due to inactivity and lack of a Current Mailing Address. All remaining groups have returned to inperson meetings, with the exception of New Hope Pickering AFG on Tuesday evenings, which is successfully using a hybrid format.

District 23 participated in the 50th AA Lakeshore Districts' Conference in August. Two of our Al-Anon speakers had the opportunity to speak on the main stage for both fellowships to enjoy - Saturday's panel 'From Both Sides' (an AA and Al-Anon speaker) and our main speaker with topic 'Hold On Pain Ends (HOPE).' There was also a workshop in the afternoon with 'Play' as the theme, which was a lot of fun, and a reminder that joy is our birthright. This was the first in-person event since the pandemic, and the planning committee, which was formed by the District GRs and some other members newer to service, did a great job and had the opportunity of being of service above the group level. The District is now asking for a volunteer to Chair and form the planning committee for the Conference in 2023!

YANA AFG celebrated its 12th. anniversary on 11Sep22 and Let It Begin With Me AFG celebrated 9 years on 22Sep22. Peace and Serenity AFG will celebrate its 3rd. anniversary on 05 Nov 22 and Traditions AFG celebrates 57 years on 22Nov22.

Some other events at which our District will be participating include the AA Fall Roundup on 12Nov22 at the Brownsdale Community Centre in Newcastle, and the Bring A Professional Meeting on 16Nov22 at the Alano Club in Oshawa. Two of our GRs will be the Al-Anon speakers and literature will be available at both events.

Unfortunately, a couple of our groups had their GR step down for various reasons, and there are now a couple of empty seats at the District meetings. As well, our District Literature Representative has stepped down and we are in the process of asking for a new volunteer and at the same time discussing whether or not the position continues to benefit the District. It's a privilege to be witness to and participate in healthy conversation about issues affecting our groups and District by using the Traditions and Concepts as a guide.

Our district has had its last District meeting for 2022, and will meet again in January 2023. We are entering the final year of our 3-year term! How time flies, and elections will be upon us before we know it. Our meetings continue on Zoom, on the 1st Wednesday of each month. If you are a member thinking of dipping your toe into service above your group level, come visit us.

One thing is certain, change is constant. And so is growth through service.

Happy Holidays!

HUGS <u>Hope</u>, <u>Unity</u>, <u>Gratitude</u>, <u>Service</u> <u>Deborah F, DR District 23</u>

District 25 (Quinte) Update

NEW AL-ANON MEETING PORT HOPE

Starting December 1, 2022

THURSDAY NIGHTS

7:30PM TO 8:30PM



Our Lady of Mercy Church 155 Walton Street, Port Hope, Ontario

Park in Lot At East Side of Church

Literature Distribution Center (LDC) Update

Hello Ontario South, I hope you are well. I want to thank each and every one of you who came to the literature room during Assembly to collect a pre order, to buy literature or to say hi and offer a hug. I was so excited to see you all and was grateful that despite a few growing pains and glitches our new method of processing sales was put in action. Because it was so close to my home I was able to restock sold out items for the Saturday. How exciting is that?

Due to WSOs price increases and Canada Post implementing a second price increase this year some prices have gone up. Please ensure that you are using the October 2022 order form when submitting orders. They were sent out to all the DRs, were available in print for people to take at Assembly and are on the Ontario South website. If you can't find them, send me an email and I can send them to you in both formats, fillable and printable.

Now the good news, bad news. Due to the forest fires of the past years, covid etc. the printers are still having very lengthy printing delays. At this moment I have almost everything on the shelves or on route. The exception right now as I write this is there are still no Lois Remembers (B-7), No Paths to Recovery -the book, not workbook (B-24), or Alateen Talks back on Slogans (P-70) or Alateen Talks Back on Detachment (P-73). Also not available for me to order yet are the Service Manuals (P-24/27). WSO still hopes that the service manuals will be available for year end. I do have folders set up for all of these items so that when I order I know how many are needed and I get those plus hopefully more for the shelves. They do limit stock when they come in after a lengthy wait so that all the LDCs can get some. So far I have been able to order enough to cover all that are waiting plus more but I know other LDCs have not. It is hard. We want so much to provide literature to our membership but alas it is a lesson in patience for me at least. Waiting sometimes 7 months for things is heartbreaking. It is however out of our hands. I ask that you continue to put your orders in and please do not send payment until I have confirmed that what you want is here. If it isn't I won't accept payment for those items because of the lengthy wait times. Of course, every once in a while, I get stuck because I had the item when you were quoted but by the time payment arrived, they were gone but I have tried very hard to not have that occur. I will call you when I have the other items and you can pay then or decline.

If you ever have any questions, I am here Monday-Thursday 10-1 (still on covid hours). I will respond to all off hour inquiries during the office hours.

Please remember there is a speaker list here if you are looking for people who are willing to share. IF you are on it and want off, please let me know. If you'd like to be added, let me know and I will send you the form. I do ask anyone who gets it to please not share it and destroy it once they are done. I'm happy to send it but I don't wish old info be passed around and it is personal info too so that needs to be protected.

Be well. I am so grateful to serve you.

Linda LDC Office Manager os.literature.distribution@gmail.com

Ask-It-Basket Responses to Questions from Assembly



Here are the questions submitted and the responses by the Ask-it-Basket Committee, from this spring's Area World Service Committee meeting:

MY QUESTION IS: When there are lots of people in person, with fewer people on Zoom, what can be done so that the Zoom people do not feel excluded? Name: Cyndi W (D6)

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: Use group conscience. One idea is to put the laptop on a lazy Susan, and pivot the laptop to put the in-person speaker on camera. The best way to learn is from experience. Concerns could be discussed at a business meeting. The 11th Tradition says that our public relations policy is based on attraction, rather than promotion.

MY QUESTION IS: Tradition 11, whereas our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion, and that we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films; How does the practice of promoting Al-Anon with TV advertising and medical conventions fit with Tradition 11? Name: Connie H (D12)

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: Please see the 1966 World Service Conference Statement on Public Relations. This is found on page 117 in the 2018-2019 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual. (or page 119 in the 2022-2025 version. Also look at guideline G9 on Al-Anon.org.

MY QUESTION IS: When was the first Forum printed? Name: Roxanne (D26)

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: 1949. Ruth G., from the California Family Group, started a twelve-page, monthly magazine, and called it the Family Forum. This is found in Al-Anon History on alanon.org.

MY QUESTION IS: Are there paragraphs or CAL statements that we can use for meetings with an electronic component so that we can know the person's name and that covers protocols for muting and unmuting and turning on their video? Name: Cyndi W (D6)

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: Use group conscience. There is a guideline #39 about electronic meetings. The same principles that apply to in-person meetings apply electronically. We ask for respect, for people to wait their turn to speak, with no cross-talk. Group conscience ensures group autonomy.

MY QUESTION IS: At what point do we ask a person not to attend a meeting? Name: Anonymous ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: Suggestions: Tradition 1 says "our common welfare should come first. Use group conscience, which might include taking a group inventory. One could invite a neutral third party to facilitate the group conscience. One could make situation-specific decisions, for example, to call 911. Another resource is the pamphlet "Safety in Al-Anon Meetings". Tradition 12 is "ever reminding us to place principles above personalities." This reminds us to define unacceptable conduct in meetings, rather than focusing on a personality.

MY QUESTION IS: Are "hybrid" meetings considered to be Electronic Groups? For example, in my home group we're meeting with some members in person at the meeting location, plus some members join on Zoom. With the in-person group, we log into the Zoom group so we can all meet together in hybrid format. Name: Rosemary (D20)

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: Hybrid meetings are not part of the Electronic groups as they have a permanent address where members meet in a physical location.

MY QUESTION IS: What is the reasoning behind why Assembly is not offered as a Hybrid mtg? It would offer the opportunity for the less financially healthy groups to attend and have their "voices" heard? Name: Tom R (D5)

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: The hotel where the Assembly met did not include facilities to hold a hybrid meeting, and renting the equipment necessary would have meant a significant increase in cost to the Area. It also would have resulted in a significantly increased workload for the volunteers involved in hosting the Assembly. Members and groups renting guest rooms in the hotel helps to significantly reduce the cost of the meeting rooms.

All members of Al-Anon/Alateen who register at Assembly have a voice and may share from the floor during discussions. (Ontario South Assembly Policies & Discrete Manual, Section 5A, page 5 of 7) Groups unable to send a representative could share their thoughts with a non-voting member who is attending, like their District Representative.

MY QUESTION IS: What is the reasoning behind holding Assembly in the far eastern end of the Area? If it was positioned in a more central location, it would better balance out the costs to each group across the area so distance and travel costs would be less of an inhibitor in being able to send the Group Rep Name: Tom R (D5)

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: It has been traditional to rotate the location from East to West to Central to allow all members to experience an Assembly. A central location is preferred for the year when elections will be held to allow as many groups as possible to be represented. (Ontario South Assembly Policies & Manual, Section 5A, page 1 of 7)

MY QUESTION IS: Please consider options that would allow the Group Rep of a financially healthy group the ability to also carry the " voice" of a less financially healthy group to the Area Assembly in support of the message in our 5th Concept. Name: Tom R (D5)

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: Every member of Al-Anon/Alateen registered at Assembly has a voice and may share from the floor during discussions. However, each Group Representative has one vote. (Ontario South Assembly Policies & Discrete Manual, Section 5A, page 5 of 7) Groups unable to send a representative could share their thoughts with a non-voting member who is attending, like their District Representative

MY QUESTION IS: Hi. This is related to Assembly Discussion Item 4, Electronic Groups in Ontario South. Are "hybrid" meetings considered to be Electronic Groups? For example, in my home group we're meeting with some members in person at the meeting location, plus some members join on Zoom. With the in-person group, we log into the Zoom group so we can all meet together in hybrid format. Name: Rosemary M (D20)

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: Electronic Groups are groups that only meet online. In-Person Meetings with an Electronic Component (formerly referred to as hybrid meetings) will continue to be a part of Ontario South. These meetings have a face-to- face location and an electronic component. They will be registered through our Area Group Records Coordinator. (Ontario South Delegate's report, Assembly 2022)

MY QUESTION IS: Are they going to add more pamphlets for download free or with a cost, so online groups can use them for people who are not in their District? Some Examples: Newcomers packets, Three Views of Al-Anon, Alcoholism A Merry go round named Denial, A guide for the Family of the Alcoholic, and What Do You Do about the Alcoholic's drinking. I feel that with all the online meetings, this is a way for WSO to make more money and give us more tools to give our online users more help. If we add access to download all our pamphlets at cost, our newcomers can have more tools especially the ones above which give them ways of handling their life with an Alcoholic. Would also like to see some pamphlets for parents and grandparents. Name: Barbara P (D13)

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: Many of our CAL pamphlets, including some included in the Newcomer's Package, are available to download for free at al-anon.org, in the menu under Members>Literature. Literature-related suggestions can be submitted to the World Service Office via our Delegate.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1. ITEM: Considering our budget process involves guessing and estimating and that we are coming out of a pandemic with a great deal of uncertainty, could we build in a process and method periodically (quarterly, semi-annually) to give the membership an update on how we're doing with the budget? This would allow us to make adjustments, cut some plans, make an appeal to the membership of O.S. for more funds to stay on budget. Thank you. Name: Sue S. D16
 - **RESPONSE:** Financial reports including actual to budget figures are sent out semi-annually, at AWSC and Assembly. District Reps are responsible for sharing this information with their GRS who share it with their members. The executive reviews these 3 additional times per year and can alert the membership should anything arise.
- 2. ITEM: Reduce in-person executive meeting and replace some of them to zoom to reduce costs. Decision-making by Assembly on this issued in the budget review. Hybrid meetings at Assembly on non-voting years. Name: Eva A, D13 RESPONSE: This executive has only met once in person. This is being reviewed continually. Virtual meetings do tend to take longer, and fellowship is lost. In person meetings with an electronic component have a higher cost than in person meetings alone. Higher cost for meeting rooms is charged when fewer hotel bedrooms are sold. AWSC and then Assembly does review the budget.
- 3. ITEM: I feel the qualifications for the AMIAS should change. The current number of Al-Anon service years is two but I feel it could be dropped to one year of service. I understand the reason for 2 years service is to ensure that the Al-Anon member is an active Al-Anon and has a full understanding of responsibilities of being and AMIAS. Could we drop the # of years in Al-Anon to 1

instead of 2? In doing so, the applicant could sign and agree to having the co-ordinator talk to my sponsor to check on my progression in my program. I could be decertified if I am not growing or working my program. Name: Deb P, D6

RESPONSE: This is beyond Area autonomy. Page 96 of the current World Service Manual sets a minimum of 2 years of service in Al-Anon as one of the qualifications for an AMIAS. If we were not to follow these requirements our Area would lose our ability to have Alateen.

- 4. ITEM: Can we use para-legs to verify policy checks for certification in Ontario? Faster turnaround! Cheaper? Name: Geralyn H, D18 (Ask-it-Basket)
 RESPONSE: This is a good question that is currently under consideration. As an Area we are reaching out to WSO for clarification through the links of service.
- 5. ITEM: That Ontario South, as soon as possible, advise WSO that we do have a process in place (the Thought Force) to determine the pros and cons of whether or not to accept Electronic Groups into Area 86. And further, to request that no group be unwillingly removed and placed into the Global Electronic Area until Ontario South has made this determination.

 Rationale:

As we all know, Ontario South Assembly decided on October 15, 2022 not to accept Electronic Groups into the Area until a Thought Force presents the pros and cons of doing so. This decision has left some groups in the position of being arbitrarily removed from Ontario South in the immediate future. In addition, there are currently 85 online meetings listed in Ontario South (not including hybrid meetings). This is approximately 1/3 of our groups. It seems logical to request that WSO refrain from moving any groups until we have come to a decision. It will be much easier for the groups to remain in the Area for now, than to have to go through the long and complicated process of petitioning the Area and WSO to return. Also, many of these groups are feeling abandoned by Ontario South. This is Al-Anon and we need to remember our primary purpose. We would never refuse a person membership because they did not live on the right side of town. Nor should we refuse a group belonging to our Area simply because they are meeting online. Quoting from the WSC Summary 2022:

- 1. "Yes, the Board and Staff do want the Areas to be supportive of Electronic Groups..." page 44
- 2. "The WSO only needs to know if your Area has a process in place..." page 44
- 3. re: temporary electronic meetings "WSO is not going to require any changes for these groups AS OF NOW..." page 45

I believe we need to offer these groups hope and support by advising WSO of our process, and asking them to refrain from making any moves at this time. Name: Carolyn S., GR, D26

RESPONSE: Yes, our Area is asked to let WSO know of the Assembly 2022's decision with respect to electronic groups, and this is being done. There is no immediate threat to groups. Groups meeting on an electronic platform temporarily are not affected at all. Purely electronic meetings are already a part of the Global Electronic Area.

6. ITEM: I can feel disconnected from Al-Anon Area business in my position as Website Coordinator. Having to pass on Assembly 2022 did not help, what with the lack of a hybrid alternative. I think we can do better, when it comes to maximum inclusiveness of members in Al-Anon Area service.

I would be interested in having more options to get involved.

One of the things I would ask to be considered, is the option to attend (part of) Executive meetings, as an observer. Or, at the very least, know when they are held and what is on

the agenda.

Our current Alternate Delegate has made the effort to meet with the Coordinators ahead of Executive Meetings, to ask if there are specific concerns we want her to bring to these meetings. And I applaud that initiative. But would it not be a lot easier if we could bring our comments to the Executive team ourselves? And directly hear the feedback? I could imagine that other members of the AWSC might share the same interest.

Communication is a two-way street, but it is often one-directional at Area level. Responses are only to be found in Open Lines - this worthwhile edition is only published 3 times per year, which can make for a long wait to hear back from the Area.

As members in Area service, we are expected to write multiple reports each year for Open Lines, AWSC, Assembly and Executive Meetings. It would be nice if there was a guideline for the Executive team to do the same to the others who are in Area service. Especially if the request to attend Executive Meetings is denied.

If there were a structured channel of more frequent communication, feeling involved in what is happening in Ontario South will be that much easier. And the Executive Team would benefit in that they know what the general sense in the Ontario South community is about certain topics. This might also help with managing the discussion about decision points at Assembly and AWSC, because members have a stronger sense of already having been heard.

If attending Executive Meetings is not an option, a simple alternative could be by way of email, with Executive Meeting agendas. And, afterwards: an email with reports: a list of topics discussed with the outcome, including why a certain decision was made or position was taken.

There is another side to all of this as well: if members receive a notification about the discussion topics in a timely fashion, they might volunteer a helping hand. Which is beneficial to the whole of the Ontario South Area.

Just to be clear: this item of consideration is not about a lack of trust in the Executive Team, or disrupting the principles of delegation. We all share the label of "trusted servants". I appreciate the many hours we all invest in the list of tasks of our position. But that does not mean that there should only be minimal direct interaction between those in Area service, who are currently excluded from attending Executive meetings, or even being aware of what's on the agenda.

When fulfilling a coordinator service position, it is implied that the person has an interest in Area business. To only be able to meet at AWSC seems a very meagre level of involvement. It would be good to see more initiative to get all Area service members included (and this includes District Representatives and other special AWSC positions that are currently excluded from attending Executive meetings) so that they, when asked, can explain why certain courses of actions were decided upon.

I am not a big fan of even more meetings throughout the year. Like many others, I have a busy agenda outside of Al-Anon. But I think more insight in what comes to the table at the Executive Meetings might merit the additional time investment.

I thank you for your consideration and keeping an open mind to further improvements. Name: Nicky D, D14

RESPONSE: Thank you again for your Item. Executive Meetings are closed business meetings to allow those invited to get through an incredible amount of work. As per our area manual, Sec 3, page 1 of 2, item 1 and 2, the executive team meets in February, July, and November. And also, in January in a handover year. The exact dates are up to the availability of the executive team and venue. The agenda grows throughout the year and is not available until just before a meeting. Many items appear in Open Lines or on the agenda of AWSC and Assembly.

These Items for Consideration are an effective way to send information to the executive and back to members.

The Alternate Delegate is a direct line for Coordinators to communicate with the Executive.

All members are invited to serve on the executive should they feel called to do so.

7. ITEM: Our District has experienced several issues maintaining our group record with Ontario South in the last several years. Below are some experiences from some of our groups:

In May 2022, one of our groups received notice from AFG Records (WSO) that the group had been reported as non-meeting. The GR responded immediately via email and phone that the group was meeting via Zoom and that a notice had been posted at the church with the Zoom meeting details and a phone number to contact for more information. WSO advised the GR that they had not received the Group's Zoom's information for the entirety of the pandemic. When the representative from WSO heard about Ontario South's process for submitting a group record change (submitting the group records change form via Ontario South and it would also update the WSO record), they stated that this was incorrect and that the groups should always fill out the WSO form in addition to the Ontario South form. The representative at WSO was able to correct the information and the non-meeting notice was rescinded.

"I don't understand the whole updating our status procedure. I did check with the Recode person at Assembly and what she showed me was accurate. My only question to her is when I go into the update site it doesnt tell me what I have in there already. Unless I have a print out of the original I shall never know. I have challenges with my memory and would appreciate a copy of what Al-Anon already has. Asking me to remember is not going to happen."

"My experience as GR in dealing with Group Records has been that our group information changes never seem to have been forwarded to WSO. We have been told not to submit to WSO ourselves, that Area Group Records will do this, however this has not

occurred in the last two years.

I have tried contacting Group Records about this, but no response. I believe in following the links of service but am now at the point where I just go ahead and notify WSO myself - and they are always most helpful. I realize we are all volunteers but also that having accurate meeting info is absolutely vital so I go that route. "

At Assembly, when we received our package from the Group Records Coordinator it contained several inaccuracies. Some of these inaccuracies could be explained by the glitch in the form that was explained (which why were the paper copies then given out? More confusion?), but some of the inaccuracies could not. Some of the groups on our list had been closed for several months-years (and are no longer listed on the website), GR information was incorrect, etc.

Our District is wondering if there are further glitches with the group records change form that the Executive is not yet aware of? We are also wondering if there is a way to make the form more user friendly? We are also wondering if there is a better way to integrate sharing group information between our Area and WSO (especially since WSO is working on improving its own group record processes)? Name: Kathleen S, D26 **RESPONSE:** Thank you for this information. Yes, there was an unfortunate technical glitch earlier this year. We are looking into having confirmation sent back to the member when a group records form is submitted. The program that is used sets the parameters of the group records forms. The list from the Group Records coordinator is for District Reps only and contains information for the last 10 years.

8. ITEM: I am reaching out to you as a member of the GTAIS Service Committee. The GTAIS have a Public Outreach Project planned for May of 2023. The Event needs funds to cover the costs of the cubicle, furnishings, and literature. I propose that Ontario South invest \$1000.00 (One thousand dollars) towards this event - \$500 for the cubicle and \$500 for literature.

This event is the 20th Anniversary of the Tri-Med Conference and historically there are 10,000 attendees from all areas of health practitioners - doctors, nurses, EMTs etc. The participants also come from all areas of Ontario, Canada and around the world. Name: Wendy C, D17

RESPONSE: This is not a budgeted item for this year. We are not comfortable unilaterally spending an amount this large that is not preapproved. Unfortunately, there is no time to bring this to Assembly before the 2023 event. Assembly can be approached for a future year. A small amount of literature is being donated and groups and districts may wish to support this very worthwhile cause.

9. ITEM: The Pri-Med Conference brings together over ten thousand health care professionals in Toronto each May. GTAIS is planning to provide information about Al-Anon/Alateen to these professionals at this year's event.

This is a major Public Outreach initiative which can impact all of Ontario South. I ask that you support our efforts with a donation directed to GTAIS Pri-Med Conference. Name: Louise W

RESPONSE: This is not a budgeted item for this year. We are not comfortable unilaterally spending an amount this large that is not preapproved. Unfortunately, there is no time to bring this to Assembly before the 2023 event. Assembly can be approached for a future year. A small amount of literature is being donated and groups and districts may wish to support this very worthwhile cause.

Gratefully Yours,

Sandy O Chairperson, Ontario South Assembly chairons86@gmail.com

Upcoming Events!!





SAVE THE DATE MARCH 17TH - 19TH, 2023

ORC
ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
WITH AL-ANON/ALATEEN PARTICIPATION

SHERATON CENTRE TORONTO HOTEL 123 QUEEN STREET WEST, TORONTO

SAVE THE DATE

Ontario South Al-Anon/Alateen Trillium Convention 2023

We Are No Longer Alone



June 9-11, 2023

Durham College/UOIT Campus 2000 Simcoe Street N.,Oshawa ON





click here to Register